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Conservation Commission Minutes 04/26/2012

Arlington Conservation Commission
 Minutes
 April 26, 2012

Mr. Stevens called the meeting to order at 7:45 p.m. in the second floor conference room of the Town Hall Annex.

Present were Nathaniel Stevens, David White, Chris Naylor, Eileen Coleman, Michele Durocher and Curt Connors of the Commission. Conservation Commission Administrator Cori Beckwith, and Catherine Garnett and Charles Tirone, of the Commission, were not in attendance. Also present were Peter Schweich, Samantha Hard, Peter Kerrigan, John DiNapoli and Town Engineer Wayne Chouinard, P.E.

7:45 pm – Commission Business

White/Connors motioned to approve the 4/5 **minutes** with edits; motion passed unanimously.

Waterbodies Fund: Mr. White and Ms. Durocher updated the Commission on the discussion of proposals pertaining to the Conservation Commission at Town Meeting (TM) this week. The Waterbodies Fund has not come up yet at TM.

Cookes Hollow: The proposal to amend the zoning bylaw so as to allow burial and immurement of cremains at Cookes Hollow to was defeated. Some at the meeting felt that the amendment was too broadly written, appearing to allow future expansion into other Conservation Commission land, while others felt it would usurp the power of TM.

Symmes: Mr. Stevens is still awaiting documents which will be distributed to the other commission members for discussion at the next meeting. A maintenance plan is due to be updated and the developer is balking at the requirement to use native plants in the third park because he feels the definition is too subjective. The Commission disagrees. Mr. Stevens will forward the list of approved native species to which the Commission refers to the developer.

Meadowbrook Park cleanup: This is scheduled for May 5. Ms. Durocher will announce it at TM. Mr. White will send a notice to the Arlington Advocate. Mr. Stevens will forward the cleanup flyer to Wayne Chouinard.

Hemlock St.: In an e-mail report, Ms. Beckwith confirmed through GIS ground-truthing that the residents have encroached on to Town land.

Arlington Catholic: Connors/White motioned to approve the revised soil management plan. The developer has proposed using erosion control blankets as a substitute for straw bales. Mr. Stevens will request additional specifications for this product.

8pm **Notice of Intent** – Boulevard Road near Massachusetts Ave., Spectra gas line maintenance activities.

Samantha Hard, TRC, and Peter Kerrigan, Spectra, presented plans for pipeline maintenance along <1 mile of pipeline between Arlington and Cambridge. The work will involve excavating the pipe at either end of this segment, running a "pig" through the line to inspect it, and backfilling with excavated material. A 270-foot area of the "no activity" zone will be impacted for equipment storage. Two trees will be removed as they are too close to the pipeline and proposed excavation work. Ornamental bushes will be removed and replaced. The whole site will be surrounded by straw bales and silt fence. The work is scheduled to occur between May 29 and the end of July.

Mr. White pointed out that under the Commission's regulations, the two trees proposed for removal would have to be replaced, not necessarily at the same location. This may require authorization by DCR.

324187422Mr. Connors 324187422CurtQueried the proximity to the sewer line. Mr. Kerrigan explained that the pipeline is

above the sewer line. Spectra has a permit from the MWRA.

Mr. Connors asked for clarification of what will be stockpiled in the No Activity Zone. Ms. Hard responded that this area is intended for staging only.

Mr. Kerrigan mentioned that NStar will be installing a distribution line along Boulevard Road, which the Engineering Office is aware of but has not yet come in front of the Commission.

Connors/Naylor moved to close the hearing; motion approved unanimously.

8pm **Notice of Intent** -Hurd Field Parking Lot Reconstruction.

Mr. Chouinard presented plans for reconstruction of the Hurd Field Parking Lot to include 0.33 acres of porous surface, that portion funded by a grant from the EPA. The portion of the lot closest to the entrance will be repaved, at the Town's expense, using impermeable material. The work will be carried out by Woodard & Curran, FB Environmental and the EPA. The grant also covers a raingarden, which will be incorporated into the design. 5000 square feet will be lost in the new design, partly by pulling the line of the lot away from the brook's high water line. The project will entail excavating 2-3 feet of material or approx. 6500 cubic feet, which the EPA will dispose of. A peastone diaphragm will be inserted between the lot and the brook and the existing concrete blocks will be replaced to prevent cars driving onto the field or into the brook. Construction of the porous portion is expected to take 6 to 8 weeks while construction of the impervious portion would take an additional 1 to 2 weeks. Mr. Chouinard has asked Woodard and Curran to devise a slope stabilization plan for the denuded brook bank so it can also be revegetated.

There will be a Maintenance and Operation plan, including a requirement that the lot be swept twice per year. No infiltration barriers are planned but they can install erosion control barriers.

The preliminary design is due from the EPA by July 7. Mr. Chouinard requested that the Commission vote on the plan as presented. Mr. Connors pointed out that if the plan differs substantially from that presented tonight, the Commission will need to review it.

There was some discussion about staging. The Commission will want to specify that staging occurs at a minimum outside the 100-foot buffer line.

Connors/Coleman moved to close the hearing; motion approved unanimously.

8:30pm **Enforcement** - lot across from 9 Reed St. - removal of fallen tree with backhoe.

Mr. DiNapoli explained that a tree fell from the neighbor's lot on to his property, taking down another tree as it fell. The builder working on the next-door lot took down part of one of the trees, which was leaning on the fence between the two properties. The builder approached the Commission and was told not to touch the tree. Mr. DeNapoli feared for his liability and removed the tree using a backhoe loader to support the tree while it was being cut. He moved some soil to gain access to the site and replaced that soil. The property owner is not willing to comply with the Commission's previous suggestions that he plant blueberries and other plants at the site as he intends to seek permission to build on the site in the future. He also contended that he did not disturb the brook bank and pointed out that there is quite a bit of debris in the brook.

8:45pm **Working Session** - 252 Pleasant St. retaining wall repair

Mr. Schweich described how a retaining wall built of cinderblock on his property is crumbling. He stated that Ms. Beckwith had suggested in previous discussion that it be replaced by a stone wall. Mr. Schweich had looked at the option of building a series of walls but the cost of bringing the materials to the pond-side of his property for such an endeavor, which would entail using a crane and blocking off Pleasant St., would be prohibitive. Mr. Schweich suggested that he would instead prefer to build a form and rebuild a concrete wall 1.5 - 3 feet in front of the existing wall with fill between the walls. Mr. Schweich passed around photographs of retaining wall work that he had already performed in another area of the property. Mr. Connors stated that the Commission could not approve any work or particular wall design at a working session, Mr. Schweich angrily left the room but returned shortly after. It appeared there had been a miscommunication, where the Commission had the impression that Mr. Schweich was looking for an advance approval. Mr. Schweich said that was not his intent, and discussion resumed. Mr. Connors stated that the Commission cannot, prior to the filing of an application, make any guarantees about what conditions or mitigations would be required but that the Commission is not aware of any prohibition on utilizing a concrete wall, if properly engineered with appropriate environmental controls. Other Commission members stated agreement that a concrete wall was not outright prohibited. Mr. Connors suggested that implementing a new, functional wall might actually be a factor in Mr. Schweich's favor in any application he were to file, as a proposed means to reduce ongoing erosion to Spy Pond.

9:05pm **Notice of Intent** - Boulevard Road

The following conditions were proposed:

That staging only will occur on the 270-sq-ft area within the 25-foot zone and no stockpiling.

That trees and bushes be replaced consistent with DCR's requirements.

That straw bales and silt fence be utilized during construction.

White/Connors moved that the project be approved with these conditions. Motion passed unanimously.

9:15pm **Notice of Intent** – Hurd lot

The following conditions were proposed:

Before work commences, Mr. Choiunard must provide a plan showing construction phasing and staging locations.

All staging will be outside the 100' buffer where feasible.

Provide information on staging for the impervious portion of the lot.

Utilize either straw bales or silt fence.

Return to the Commission if there is any change to the Plan.

Connors/Coleman moved to approve the NOI with the above conditions at a minimum. Motion passed unanimously.

9:20pm **Enforcement** discussion resumed.

The Commission agreed it seemed reasonable to monitor Mr. DiNapoli's property over the next several weeks to assess how the site recovers.

Commission Business (cont.)

The Commission will ask the Administrator to ascertain the depth of the lot at **252 Pleasant St.** and the distance of the retaining wall from Spy Pond.

Meeting adjourned at 9:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Eileen Coleman, on behalf of

Corinna Beckwith

Commission Administrator